

BEE NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

seabee.org

Seabees

83 Years Strong!

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Remembering Iwo Jima

80 Years Later

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CECOS CELEBRATES
80TH
ANNIVERSARY

SEABEE GOLF
TOURNAMENTS
KICK OFF

NEW! ONLINE SEABEE
SHOP OPTIONS ADDED
TO SEABEE.ORG

HEAR FROM NSF
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

Gas in the tank: Many of my Seabees heard that topic in my final years in uniform. I often stated I had a lot more gas in the tank and like many others who served in uniform, high year tenure cut that short and I had a void in my life that the Seabees once filled. Then an opportunity came along to be a part of a nonprofit organization with like-minded professionals that are “all about Seabees and their families,” and that void has since been filled to overflowing.

The passion of the Navy Seabee Foundation's (NSF) Board of Directors and Staff coupled with the support of our Corporate Partners and Plank Owners creates a synergy that parallels the best commands I ever served in. This collective team is laser focused on our mission to preserve and protect the history and legacy of the U.S. Navy Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps. In our first year as a reborn nonprofit, by combining the best of two organizations, we have been able to really capitalize on that experience and renewed energy. Check out these events and opportunities coming your way:

The NSF Scholarship is available to any high school senior whose parent or grandparent served in a Seabee unit. This includes fleet rates and members of other services who served with Seabees

and is a great opportunity. The application season is closing very soon on April 15th. Good luck to all of the students who submitted applications. And for the high school juniors, keep us in mind for next year, we look forward to supporting you in achieving your dreams.

Seabee golf tournaments are scheduled from April to October, which are a great opportunity to enjoy a day on the links, share in some camaraderie, and support our Seabee programs. Please sign up for an event near you.

Last year, we sponsored 28 **OktoBEEfest** events throughout the world and our goal is to continue to grow this amazing opportunity to get together with fellow Seabees for a night of fun. We have made it easy to coordinate new events, so please contact us to find out how you can get an event started in your area.

This year's **Seabee Celebration** will be held in the Great Pacific Northwest. Please stay tuned for details as we plan to honor Seabees and Seabee supporters during our annual event.

And as always, keep a smile on your face and a song in your heart. Hoorah, Seabees!
~Duggy



**CMDCM DOUG HEINER,
USN, RET
NAVY SEABEE
FOUNDATION SENIOR
ENLISTED LEADER**



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

You Can Help! - The Navy Seabee Foundation belongs to you, and for us to be successful we need you! In addition to making donations to support our work, there are many ways that you can get involved in supporting the Foundation.

Spread the Word - We need your help spreading the word about the Foundation. We hope that every Seabee family who has a high school senior knows about the scholarship and applies if they need scholarship support. You can help by sharing our social media posts and calling or emailing friends who have children or grandchildren who are high school seniors. The application is online at seabee.org/scholarships

Volunteer to help with an Event - We have four golf tournaments and many OktoBEEfests around the country. You can find all our events on our website- seabee.org/

events. Volunteer to help, spread the word and maybe even host an OktoBEEfest event near you. If you are Interested, email us at info@seabee.org.

Shop at our new Seabee Store - You can purchase Seabee branded merchandise, including stickers, mugs and other items. See all options at Seabee.org/shop.

Visit the Seabee Museum - The U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme is the official museum of the Seabees and tells your story. We provide financial support to the Museum each year. If you have never been, and will be nearby this year, plan a visit.

Update your info in our database - The Foundation has the only comprehensive database of Seabees and CEC officers. Make sure we have your correct information by updating your info at seabee.org/support/share-your-story/. Thank you for your service and your support!

-Dan Miller

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BEE NEWS

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ON THE COVER:

GULFPORT, Mississippi (February 26, 2025) -- Builder 2nd Class Cobie Bonato, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 (NMCB 133), drives survey stakes in the ground at a storage facility project on Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi. NMCB 133 is conducting homeport operations as part of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command during the advanced phase of the force readiness training plan (FRTP). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Andrew Waters)

REMEMBERING THE SEABEES AT IWO JIMA: 80 Years of Grit and Sacrifice

This year marks eighty years since U.S. forces stormed the volcanic island of Iwo Jima in one of the most grueling battles of World War II. While the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi became an enduring symbol of American perseverance, another crucial force was at work on the island—the U.S. Navy Seabees.

Throughout the brutal 36-day battle, Seabees demonstrated their legendary “Can Do” spirit under relentless enemy fire, ensuring the Marines had the infrastructure needed to sustain the fight. Assigned to the 133rd Naval Construction Battalion (NCB), these skilled builders turned warriors played a pivotal role in enabling the success of Operation Detachment.



Seabees with 62nd Naval Construction Battalion working around the clock to build an airstrip and camp areas on Iwo Jima.

Engineering the Fight

Landing on Iwo Jima with the first assault waves, Seabees immediately went to work repairing shell-torn beaches, constructing vital roads, and clearing obstacles under enemy bombardment. They braved withering fire to establish makeshift airstrips, ensuring that emergency aircraft could land and evacuate the wounded. The 133rd NCB repaired



The 31st Naval Construction Battalion uses power shovels in a rock quarry at the foot of Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

and expanded Japanese airfields, turning them into crucial forward bases for B-29 bombers returning from missions over Japan. By the end of the battle, these airstrips would prove instrumental in saving thousands of American airmen.

Seabees also constructed fuel and ammunition depots, medical facilities, and water distribution systems, often under direct fire. They operated bulldozers, graders, and cranes while Japanese snipers and artillery targeted them relentlessly. Despite the ever-present danger, they pressed forward, embodying the Seabee motto, *Construimus, Batuimus—We Build, We Fight*.

Courage Under Fire

The conditions on Iwo Jima were unforgiving. The island’s black volcanic sand made construction a formidable challenge, and enemy forces were deeply entrenched in an extensive network of tunnels and bunkers. Despite these obstacles, the Seabees proved invaluable in reinforcing Marine positions, sealing off enemy tunnels, and adapting their engineering expertise to the shifting needs of the battle.

The cost of victory was steep. The 133rd NCB suffered casualties alongside their Marine counterparts, with Seabees laying down their tools to take up arms when necessary. Their sacrifice and determination under fire solidified their reputation as indispensable warriors of the Pacific.

A Legacy of Valor

As we mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, we honor the courage and resilience of the Seabees who helped secure victory in one of the most harrowing battles of World War II. Their legacy endures in the modern Naval Construction Force, where today’s Seabees continue to uphold the same spirit of tenacity and service.

The Seabees at Iwo Jima exemplified what it means to build and fight, proving that their impact extends far beyond construction—they are warriors whose work changes the course of history. Today, we remember their bravery, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to the mission.

We Build, We Fight—Then, Now, and Always.



A power shovel lifts volcanic ash and stone, while loading 62nd Construction Battalion truck amid a steamy Iwo Jima landscape, March 1945

NMCB 133 Commemorates Iwo Jima Seabees with Black Hell Squad PT Event

On Friday, February 28, 2025, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, known as the “Runnin’ Roos,” held the annual Black Hell Squad Physical Training (PT) event to honor the legacy of the 133rd Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) Seabees who fought valiantly during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. This year’s event held special significance, marking the 80th anniversary of the historic battle.

Eighty years ago, on February 19, 1945, the Seabees of the 133rd NCB played a pivotal role in the D-Day assault on Iwo Jima. Assigned to the 5th Amphibious Corps alongside elements of the 31st NCB, they landed on the black volcanic beaches during the initial stages of the assault. Operating as a shore party for the U.S. Marines, the Seabees were responsible for unloading supplies, repairing critical infrastructure, and ensuring the continuous movement of operations—all under relentless enemy fire. Their bravery came at a steep cost; the 133rd NCB suffered 370 casualties out of the 875 men who landed, the highest number of casualties of any Seabee unit in history.

To commemorate their courage and sacrifice, NMCB 133 conducts the Black Hell Squad competition annually. This event tests participants’ physical endurance, teamwork, and mastery of Seabee skills, embodying the “Can Do” spirit that defines the battalion. The competition serves as both a tribute to the past and a means to strengthen the bonds among current Seabees.



Through events like the Black Hell Squad competition, NMCB 133 ensures that the legacy of the Seabees who served at Iwo Jima continues to inspire and guide future generations.



CECOS CELEBRATES 80 YEARS OF TRAINING EXCELLENCE



The U.S. Naval Civil Engineer Corps Officers School (CECOS) has played a vital role in training Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers and Seabees for 80 years. Established on May 1, 1945, in Davisville, Rhode Island, its roots trace back to 1942 when the Navy created an officer indoctrination program at Camp Allen, Virginia, to meet the demands of World War II. As the war intensified, training moved to Camp Peary, Virginia, in 1943 and later to Camp Endicott, Rhode Island, in 1944, consolidating CEC training under one institution.

During World War II, the demand for trained CEC officers surged, leading to an increase in Seabee units and specialized training. By mid-1945, CECOS had 105 officers and 207 enlisted personnel providing instruction in public works, construction battalions, midshipmen training, and officer indoctrination. At its peak, the Civil

Engineer Corps grew from just 159 officers in 1941 to over 10,000 by the war's end, with an estimated 85% attending CECOS courses. However, post-war demobilization significantly reduced the staff and student numbers.

On September 1, 1946, CECOS relocated to Port Hueneme, California, where it was reestablished as the United States Naval School, Civil Engineer Corps Officers. The first class in its new location graduated in 1947, completing a 10½-week course covering naval indoctrination, public works training, and construction battalion operations. Over the years, the school adapted its curriculum to address emerging challenges, adding courses such as disaster relief engineering in 1949 and leadership training for Senior and Master Chief Petty Officers in 1968.



*Basic Class #18 graduation
NCBC Port Hueneme, July 1955*



(Left) The original CECOS staff, 1946 lead by commanding officer, CAPT R.E. Bassler, CEC, USN.

(Below) The original CECOS in Davisville, Rhode Island, was created on May 1, 1945 to consolidate the officer's indoctrination and training courses with the Navy Public Works Officers training.



The 1970s saw the introduction of courses on energy management and environmental protection to address national and global concerns. In 1959, CECOS expanded its international reach by training officers from allied nations under the Military Assistance Program (MAP). Officers from China, South Korea, Turkey, Japan, and Great Britain attended training, strengthening their naval engineering capabilities. This international exchange continued into the 1980s under the Mutual Defense Assistance Plan (MDAP), with officers from South Korea, the Philippines, Iran, and Thailand undergoing instruction at CECOS. Today, officers from allied nations such as South Korea and Japan still attend CECOS courses.

In the early 2000s, CECOS became part of the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE), aligning it with the Navy's broader training structure. CSFE oversees multiple training sites, including



Two CECOS officers with two Republic of Korea officers standing next to a flag presented to Captain Jordan, Commanding Officer of CECOS, c. early 1960's. The Korean officers attended CECOS as part of the Military Assistance Program created in 1959 to assist other nations in their naval training programs.

Naval Construction Training Centers in Port Hueneme and Gulfport, as well as detachments at Fort Leonard Wood, Sheppard Air Force Base, and China Lake. This restructuring improved training efficiency for Seabees, CEC officers, and other military personnel in construction, facilities management, and environmental readiness.

Today, CECOS trains over 6,600 students annually through 54 courses and 310 convenings. Training is conducted in Port Hueneme, via Mobile Training Teams, and through virtual platforms to increase accessibility. Courses include CEC Basic

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CECOS CELEBRATES 80 YEARS
(continued from Page 7)

Training, Staff Planning, Facilities Planning, Energy Management, Environmental Management, Hazardous Waste Management, and Real Estate Management. CECOS serves CEC officers, foreign military students, Navy and Armed Forces personnel, Department of Defense civilians, contractors, and naval reserve personnel.

On May 8-9, 2025, CECOS will commemorate its 80th anniversary with a celebration in Port Hueneme, California. The event will feature the graduation of Civil Engineer Corps Officers Basic Class 278, a cake-cutting ceremony, and a reception attended by former Commanding Officers and staff. After eight decades of excellence, CECOS continues to evolve alongside advancements in military engineering, ensuring that CEC officers and Seabees are prepared to lead, build, and sustain critical naval operations worldwide.

In 1968, CECOS introduced a six-week course designed to update Senior Chief and Master Chief Petty Officers on current policies and programs in support of the operating forces of the Navy. The course was later extended to add a lower petty officers class to prepare them for their transition from lead technician/crew leader to first level manager in the Naval Construction Force or the naval shore establishment.



ENS Michael Crum receives the Commodore Hunt Award in September 2012. This award honors Ms. Eileen Hunt, who devoted 45 years of service to CECOS. To continue her legacy, a Seabee Foundation endowed scholarship is currently being developed in her name.



TEE UP FOR 2025 SEABEE GOLF!

The 2025 Seabee Golf Tournament series kicks off this spring with two exciting events, bringing Seabee supporters together for a great day on the course while raising funds for vital programs.

First up, the **Gulf Coast Seabee Golf Tournament** on Wednesday, April 30 at Diamondhead Country Club in Diamondhead, Mississippi. Then, the action moves to Clifton, VA, for the **D.C. Seabee Golf Tournament** on Tuesday, June 10 at Westfields Golf Club.

These tournaments support the Navy Seabee Foundation's mission, benefiting Seabees, the Navy Seabee Museum, and scholarships for Seabee families. Sponsorship opportunities are available, and silent auction donations are needed to make these events a success.

Later in the year, the tournament series continues with stops in San Diego on August 11 and Virginia Beach on October 9.

Gather your team and join us on the course. Register today at SeabeeGolf.org.



Explore the Navy Seabee Foundation's Enhanced Website: Introducing the New 'Shop' Feature

The Navy Seabee Foundation continues to enhance its website to better serve the Seabee community. Key features include:

- **Scholarships:** Available for children and grandchildren of Seabee veterans, supporting various educational paths. Applications open Jan 1–April 15.
- **Seabee Events:** A central listing of Seabee-related events, including the Seabee Celebration, OktoBEEfest, golf tournaments, and reunions.
- **Heritage Preservation:** Support for the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum and other initiatives to honor Seabee history.
- **A new "Shop" feature** now offers Seabee merchandise, including apparel, accessories, and memorabilia. Purchases support the Foundation's mission, helping preserve Seabee history and fund educational programs.

Visit the website, seabee.org, to explore these features and show your Seabee pride!



83 YEARS STRONG! SEABEES CELEBRATE ACROSS THE WORLD



Guam



Port Hueneme, CA



NCB18



Washington, D.C.



Okinawa



Port Hueneme, CA



Myrtle Beach, SC



Naples, Italy



Romania



Papua New Guinea



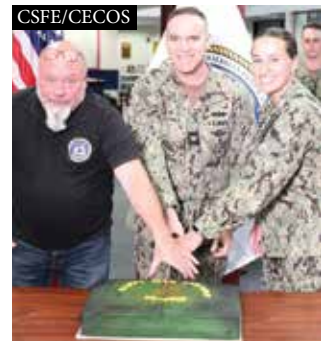
NCB18



Fort Worth , TX



Minneapolis, MN



CSFE/CECOS



Lubbock , TX



Loveland, CO



FIVE NEW ENDOWED NSF SCHOLARSHIPS

The Navy Seabee Foundation has almost 160 Endowed scholarships. Endowed scholarships are awarded each year to a new or returning student attending an accredited 2-year, 4-year or Career and Technical Education (CTE) institution. In 2024, five new scholarships were funded.



Kathleen Marie (Meehan) Hinton Scholarship

Funded in 2025 by Bill Hinton in loving memory of his wife Kathy and to honor her career as a teacher.



EQCM Clyde K. Marion CTE Scholarship

Funded in 2024 to commemorate Master Chief Marion's 21-year career. The scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing Career or Technical Education.



EQCM(SCW) A.A. "Randy" Kuehn, Jr. CTE Scholarship

Funded in 2024 by Nancy Kuehn in memory of EQCM Randy Kuehn who was the 11th Force Master Chief. The scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing Career or Technical Education.



Great 58 Scholarship

Funded in 2024 by the NMCB 58 Association to honor the 58th Naval Construction Battalion and their service in WWII and Vietnam.



SW3 Eric Knott Scholarship

Funded in 2024 by the Washington DC Seabee Golf Committee and the Navy Seabee Foundation to honor SW3 Knott who was killed in action September 4th, 2004.

Each of these scholarships will be awarded in 2025 for the first time. The application is available at Seabee.org/scholarships and the deadline is April 15th! To learn more about all the endowed scholarships, visit Seabee.org/scholarships/endowed-scholarships.

For information on funding an endowed scholarship with the Navy Seabee Foundation, please contact Dan Miller, at danmiller@seabee.org.

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

Did you know you may be able to double your donations to the Navy Seabee Foundation? Many companies will match up to 100% of your gift simply by filling out and submitting a form. Most companies do this online so it's easier than ever.

To find out if your company matches gifts, search our online Matching gift portal at <https://doublethedonation.com/navyseabeefoundation>. Many companies also match gifts from retirees. Each company has a maximum matching gift level and many are quite generous.

Here is a list of companies that have matched recent gifts to the Foundation:

- AIG D
 - ell, Inc
 - Chevron
 - Clorox
 - The Walt Disney Co.
 - Duke Energy
 - GE Aerospace
 - Home Depot
 - Kimberly Clark
 - Total Quality Logistics
- And others!

If you have questions about matching gifts, email us at info@seabee.org.

The information in this article is provided as general information and is not intended as legal or tax advice. For advice and assistance in specific cases, you should seek the advice of an attorney or other professional adviser.

Faces of the Future: Get to Know Four Exceptional Seabee Scholarship Recipients

**ISAAC SANCHEZ**

Class of 2025
School: Louisiana State University
Major: Pre-Med
Sponsor: ET2 Robert Sanchez (Parent)

Growing up with my father deployed often, I had to step up. My mantra was simple: show up and stay positive. Many assume being a military child is easy, but it requires flexibility, discipline, and resilience. I saw these qualities in the Seabees, especially when disaster struck. I vividly remember my father deploying to Haiti right after the earthquake. That moment shaped me, showing the power of selflessness and inspiring my desire to help others. Seabee values drive me to work hard and be ready at a moment's notice. I plan to attend medical school to become a doctor specializing in genetics or anesthesia. The Navy Seabee Foundation scholarship is a tremendous help in funding my education.

**AUBREY STARK**

Class of 2026
School: Louisiana Tech University
Major: Civil Engineering
Sponsor: BU3 Robert Martindale (Grandparent)

My grandfather, a Seabee, is one of the hardest-working people I know. He has shaped my work ethic and inspired my passion for civil engineering through the skills and discipline he gained in the Navy. From his experiences, I've learned the importance of perseverance, no matter the challenge. My education and civil engineering internship have shown me the significant impact engineers have on everyday life. This field offers opportunities for creativity, design, and professional growth—skills my grandfather has encouraged in me. I am grateful for his dedication, and I hope to embody his work ethic and passion as I pursue my career.

**GRADY SMITH**

Class: 2027
School: Gannon University
Major: Physician Assistant
Sponsor: LT Douglas Smith (Parent)

Growing up in a small town with five siblings, I developed a deep appreciation for community and service. My father, a Seabee, has guided me through both mistakes and accomplishments, helping me discover my purpose. I want to attend college not just because it's the next step, but because I strive to do things most people don't—learning, growing, and making an impact. The Navy Seabee Foundation scholarship will help me achieve my goal of a service-driven career in healthcare. Coming from a family of eight, financial support is crucial, and this scholarship will allow me to pursue my aspirations.

**AYLA FLOCKTON**

Class: 2028
School: Utica University
Major: Physical Therapy
Sponsor: BUL3 Bruce Flockton (Grandparent)

My grandfather's Seabee stories are both inspiring and impactful. Through his memories, I've learned the true meaning of "Can Do." He has always encouraged me to push myself, work hard, and value my education. His dedication and sacrifices have instilled in me a deep respect for service and perseverance. I take pride in my academic achievements and strive to challenge myself by embracing new experiences. As I pursue a career in physical therapy, I look forward to becoming part of something bigger than myself—just as my grandfather did in his time as a Seabee.

The Navy Seabee Foundation provides scholarships for two-year, four-year, and career and technical programs, exclusively supporting the children and grandchildren of America's Fighting Seabees, Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers, and those who served with the Naval Construction Force. If you're pursuing higher education at an accredited college, university, or technical school, apply between January 1 and April 15. Learn more at www.seabee.org/scholarships/.



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CAN DO!

seabee.org

To find out how your company can become a Navy Seabee Foundation corporate partner, email us at info@seabee.org

2025 SEABEE EVENTS

APRIL 2025

15 Navy Seabee Foundation Scholarship Deadline

23-27 NSVA Island X-24 Reunion April 23-27 - West Knoxville TN

23-27 NMCB 40 Reunion April 23-27 - Charleston, SC

30 Gulf Coast Seabee Golf Tournament
Wednesday, April 30 - SeabeeGolf.org

MAY 2025

1-4 NSVA Island X-1 All-Seabee Reunion Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront, Gulfport, MS

1-4 NMCB-12 Reunion 1 May 1-4, 2025 - Gulfport, MS

9 BAasic Class #278 Graduation & CECOS 80th Anniversary Friday, May 9 - Port Hueneme, CA

20-23 MCB-12 Vietnam Reunion 1968-69 May 20-23, 2025 - Bath, Maine

JUNE 2025

10 **Washington DC Seabee Golf Tournament**
Tuesday, June 10 - SeabeeGolf.org

JULY 2025

1-10 Navy Seabee Foundation Virtual 5K

AUGUST 2025

11 **San Diego Seabee Golf Tournament**
Monday, Aug 11 - SeabeeGolf.org

20-24 NSVA National Convention August 20-24 - Orlando, Florida

SEPTEMBER 2025

13 Navy Seabee Foundation Seabee Celebration

OCTOBER 2025

1-30 2025 OktoBEEfests - www.OktoBEEfest.org

9 Virginia Beach Seabee Golf Tournament
Thursday, October 9 - SeabeeGolf.org

To stay in the know, follow us on social media!



WWW.SEABEEGOLF.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

VIRTUAL SEABEE 5K

www.donorbox.org/seabee-5k-2025

JULY 1-13
SEABEE.ORG

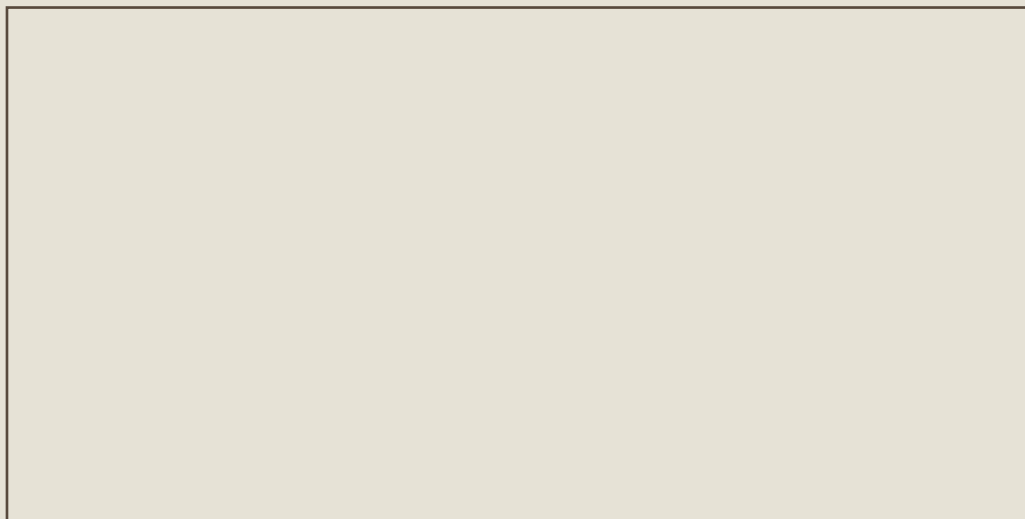
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SEABEE SPOTLIGHT

Want More News?
Check out the digital
BEE NEWS EXTRA
published electronically
each month. Go to
seabee.org
for more Seabee
stories and news!



FT LEONARD WOOD, MO - Seabee Engineering Aide (EA) students and instructors gather for a group photo at the 2025 CSFE Detachment Fort Leonard Wood Seabee Ball on Saturday, March 8, celebrating Seabee heritage and camaraderie.